

## SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER EUROPE SHAPE, BELGIUM

24 September 2009

To the People of Montenegro,

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the warm hospitality I received in Montenegro on September 23rd and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 during my first visit to your country as the Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

During my visit, I met with Montenegro's president Filip Vujanović, the Minister of Defense Boro Vučinić and the Chief of Defense Major General Dragan Milosavljević and attended very interesting briefings.

I am convinced that regional cooperation and stability can only be further strengthened by continued discussions and by improving civil-military emergency preparedness and disaster response capabilities.

My heart was deeply warmed by the enthusiasm, graciousness and openness of everyone with whom I met. Thank you again for such a warm reception. All the best to you, and I look forward to returning to Montenegro soon.

Sincerely,

JAMES G. STAVRIDIS

Admiral, U.S. Navy

Supreme Allied Commander Europe